



CONCERNED PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS, INC.

P.O. Box 632, Somis, CA 93066

Ph 805-484-2312



2069 '98 SEP -9 10 54

Sept. 3, 1999

Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sirs:

The forced molting of hens by the U.S. Egg industry to manipulate egg production has been proven to be so successful that the intentional starving of the birds has had a devastating effect upon their immune systems. This unsavory practice has subjected the hen population to an epidemic of salmonella virus poisoning that can get into their eggs.

The US Dept. of Agriculture's Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) has stated: "FSIS recognizes that public health concerns are raised by highly stressful forced molting practices. For example, extended starvation and water deprivation practices lead to increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis (Se) by laying hens subjected to these practices."

Because of this obvious threat to human health by exposure to the Salmonella virus we believe that it is imperative that the FDA do more than merely order bacteria warnings on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures. Instead, the FDA should act to prohibit the practice of forced molting because this practice has been scientifically proven that it promotes disease as well as being extremely cruel to these sensitive birds.

We understand that the FDA has jurisdiction to ban dangerous farm practices such as forced molting. We strongly urge you to do so as soon as possible and end this despicable practice of forced molting that is the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs. The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting and it should be granted without more delay. Thank you.

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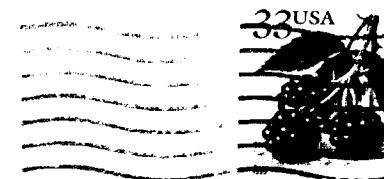
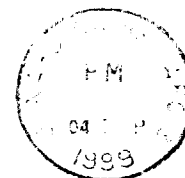
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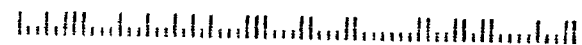
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C492

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C493
96P-0418/C492